

REMARKS:

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-14 were pending. Claims 1-14 stand rejected, but claim 13 has been found to contain allowable subject matter. Pursuant to this Amendment, claims 1 and 10-14 have been amended, and new claims 15-20 have been added. Claims 1-20 remain pending.

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 10, 12, 13 and 14 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Thus, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Since claim 13 has been found to contain allowable subject matter, and since claim 13 has been amended to address the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, claim 13 is now in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bonner (USPN 5,293,043) in view of Spence (USPN 6,106,659) and Pieper (USPN 4,260,240). This rejection is traversed for at least the following reasons.

Without agreeing with the Examiner as to what is or is not taught by the cited references, claims 1 and 10-14 have been amended to more clearly define the claimed invention over said references.

More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite that the electrode magazine moves parallel to the electrode support tube between the operative and inoperative positions. Bonner provides that the electrode magazine is mounted to the support tube 14 by aligning L-shaped slots 52 with associated projections 40. Thus, Bonner does not teach or suggest that the electrode magazine moves parallel to the electrode support tube between the operative and inoperative positions as now recited in amended claim 1. The other cited references fail to compensate for the deficiencies of Bonner. Thus, amended claim 1 is allowable.

Claims 2-9 depend from amended claim 1 and, therefore, are allowable for the same reasons applied thereto as well as for the additional subject matter recited in each.

Claim 10 has been amended to recite that the cabinet is integrally associated with at least one of the front end plate and the rear end plate. Claim 10 has also been amended to recite that the cabinet houses the power supply and an integral high voltage transformer provided with a high voltage wire joined in a high voltage connection to the electrodes for establishing a high voltage field between the treater roll and the electrodes. Spence fails to teach or suggest such a combination, and the other cited references fail to compensate for the deficiencies thereof. Thus, amended claim 10 is allowable.

Claim 11 recites that the high voltage connection enables a hands-free connection between the electrodes and the power supply when the electrode magazine is in the operative position, and permits disconnection of the electrodes from the power supply when the electrode magazine is in the inoperative position. None of the cited references teach or suggest such limitations. For at least this reason, claim 11 is allowable.

Contrary to Bonner, claim 12 has been amended to recite that the slidable structure enables the electrode magazine to be slidably mounted on the support tube between an operative or web treating position and an inoperative or maintenance position, such that the slidable structure is adapted and configured in such a manner that the electrode magazine can remain mounted to the support tube when in both the operative or web treating position and the inoperative or maintenance position. The other cited references fail to compensate for the deficiencies of Bonner. Thus, claim 12 is allowable.

Claim 14 has been amended to more clearly recite that the electrode magazine is movable relative to support tube between two end positions to enable incremental adjustment of a gap between the treater roll and the magazine. Pieper simply teaches that

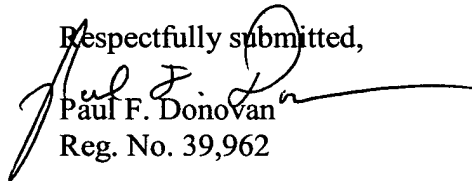
the magazine is movable between two end positions. The other cited references fail to compensate for the deficiencies of Pieper. Thus, claim 14 is allowable.

New dependent claims 15-20 have been added to recite additional allowable subject matter.

No new matter has been added by way of the amendments and remarks made herein.

Reconsideration of the rejected claims and allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully requested. In the event that there are any remaining issues that can be addressed and expedited by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Illinois Tool Works Inc.
3600 West Lake Avenue
Glenview, Illinois 60025
Telephone (847) 657 4075

Respectfully submitted,

Paul F. Donovan
Reg. No. 39,962